

Appin. No.: 09/722,177
Amdt. Dated September 21, 2005
Reply to Office Action dated June 22, 2005

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A postage metering system, comprising:
a computer;
an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;
a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an
unsecure print head and a secure print head; and
a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication
unit and the printer, the control system for:
executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication
unit to generate postal data to be included in a postal indicium, the
postal indicium including non-authorization data;
initiating a print request to print the postal indicium; and
controlling the unsecure print head to print the non-authorization data and the
secure print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the
postal indicia, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage
metering system.
2. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
3. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 2, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.

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4. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 3, wherein:
the control system is further for:
 - initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and
the authentication unit; and
 - preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
5. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 1, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print
head; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.
6. (Original) The postage metering system of claim 5, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.
7. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 6, wherein:
the control system is further for:
 - preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.
8. (Previously presented) The postage metering system of claim 7, wherein:
the control system is further for:
 - initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and
the authentication unit; and
 - preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
9. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a postage metering system to print a
postal indicium having non-authorization data, the method comprising the step(s) of:
 - executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to
generate postal data to be included in the postal indicium;

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transmitting a print request to a printer to print the postal indicium, the printer
including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;
printing the non-authorization data with the unsecure print head; and
printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print
head, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage metering system.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.
11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.
12. (Previously presented) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the
authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein:
the postal indicium further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print
head; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is a unique print pattern.

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14. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the postal indicium.
15. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.
16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the
authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
17. (Currently Amended) A document printing system, comprising:
a computer;
an authentication unit in operative communication with the computer;
a printer in operative communication with the computer, the printer including an
unsecure print head and a secure print head; and
a control system in operative communication with the computer, the authentication
unit and the printer, the control system for:
executing a transaction session between the computer and the authentication
unit to generate document data to be included in a document, the
document data including content data;
initiating a print request to print the document; and
controlling the unsecure print head to print the content data and the secure
print head to print forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document,
the forensic evidence being generated by the postage metering system.

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18. (Original) The document printing system of claim 17, wherein:
the document data further includes authorization data; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is the authorization data.
19. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 18, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.
20. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 19, wherein:
the control system is further for:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and
the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.
21. (Original) The document printing system of claim 17, wherein:
the document data further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print
head; and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is a unique print pattern.
22. (Original) The document printing system of claim 21, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the document.
23. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 22, wherein:
the control system is further for:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.
24. (Previously presented) The document printing system of claim 23, wherein:

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the control system is further for:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and
the authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.

25. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a document printing system to print a document having non-authorization data, the method comprising the step(s) of:

executing a transaction session between a computer and an authentication unit to

generate document data to be included in a document, the document data including content data~~content data to be included in the document;~~

transmitting a print request to a printer to print the document, the printer including an unsecure print head and a secure print head;

printing the content data with the unsecure print head; and

printing forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia with the secure print head, the forensic evidence being generated by the postage metering system.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:

the document further includes authorization data; and

the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the postal indicia is the authorization data.

27. (Previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising the step(s) of:

preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is generated by the secure print head.

28. (Previously presented) The method of claim 27, further comprising the step(s) of:

initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the authentication unit; and

preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is unsuccessful.

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29. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein:
the document further includes authorization data printed by the unsecure print head;
and
the forensic evidence of the authenticity of the document is a unique print pattern.
30. (Original) The method of claim 29, wherein:
the unique print pattern is a tell that is embedded within the document.
31. (Previously presented) The method of claim 30, further comprising the step(s) of:
preventing printing by the unsecure print head until an appropriate signal is
generated by the secure print head.
32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising the step(s) of:
initiating a mutual authentication routine between the secure print head and the
authentication unit; and
preventing printing by the secure print head if the mutual authentication is
unsuccessful.